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SPY SCANDAL DOGS GERMAN STAR WARS BID

By RACHEL FLICK
WASHINGTON — A delegation from the spy-riddled West German government will visit the Pentagon next week to discuss joining the highly sensitive Star Wars program.

Reports have indicated the U.S. is worried about security leaks, and plans to cut back on intelligence-sharing with the West Germans.

The reports follow news of a burgeoning spy scandal that has reached the highest level of the West German government.

Four suspected East German spies — each with sensitive positions in West Germany's government —

have fled the country in the last month.

A secretary who worked in the office of West German President Richard von Weizsaecker was arrested this week for espionage.

But Defense Dept. officials said there were no plans to cancel the scheduled talks on Star Wars, also called the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

A Star Wars spokesman said the U.S. was "looking into" reducing the amount of information the U.S. would share with West Germany.

But a Defense Dept. official said he "doubted" the U.S. would cut back on intelligence sharing.

"A large contingent of West Germans is coming here shortly to share information with us on SDI," the official said.

"Their purpose is to find out where we are."

The delegation, which includes government officials and German industry representatives, is visiting on Sept. 7 under the auspices of the West German government.

The visit is in response to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's invitation to U.S. allies last March to participate in the Star Wars research effort.